

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06107 190839Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6785
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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, EC, GR
SUBJECT: PAPANDREOU REAFFIRMS PASOK'S OPPOSITION TO EC ACCESSION

1. CORRECTING WHAT HE TERMED A DISTORTION OF HIS VIEWS ON THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY BY "TELEX MEDITERRANE," PAPANDREOU ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT LAST SUNDAY WHICH MAKES CLEAR PASOK'S CONTINUING AND CATEGORICAL OPPOSITION TO GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE EC. WE REPORT IT FOR THE RECORD.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. PASOK IS IRREVOCABLY SET AGAINST GREECE'S ADMISSION TO THE COMMUNITY. PASOK WISHES FOR A SPECIAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WHICH WILL SERVE GREECE'S INTERESTS.

IF PASOK ACCEDES TO POWER, AND IF GREECE HAS ALREADY BEEN ADMITTED TO THE EEC, WE SHALL HOLD A GENUINE REFERENDUM TO ENABLE ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY TO DECIDE ON THIS ISSUE.

WE ARE QUITE CONVINCED THAT IN A GENUINE REFERENDUM, THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY WILL, INSTEAD OF GREECE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY, CHOOSE A SPECIAL AGREEMENT WHICH WILL SAFEGUARD THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREECE'S ECONOMY. END QUOTE.

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3. COMMENT: WHILE ADDING LITTLE THAT IS NEW TO PASOK'S LONG-STANDING POSITION THAT THE QUESTION OF GREEK ACCESSION TO THE EC SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO A PUBLIC REFERENDUM, THE PAPANDREOU STATEMENT IS PERHAPS THE FIRST, AND CERTAINLY THE MOST EXPLICIT, INDICATION WE HAVE SEEN THAT HE INTENDS TO PRESS FOR SUCH A REFERENDUM EX POST FACTO IF PASOK SHOULD GAIN POWER.

MILLS

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NNN

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